

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N-0438]

Bare-Hand Contact of Ready-to-Eat Foods

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, in conjunction with the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (the committee), and in cooperation with the Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture is announcing a public meeting to discuss issues related to the contamination of ready-to-eat foods in retail establishments. The sponsoring agencies invite comments on this issue at the request of the Conference for Food Protection.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesday, September 22, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration and written notices of participation must be submitted by September 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at The Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle NW., at Massachusetts Ave. and 14th St., Washington, DC. Submit registration and written notices of participation to Catherine M. DeRoeever (address below). Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine M. DeRoeever, Advisory Committee Office (HFS-22), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration, 200 C

St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-205-4251, FAX 202-205-4970, or e-mail
“cderoeve@bangate.fda.gov”.

Those persons interested in attending the public meeting should, by September 13, 1999, fax their name, title, firm name, address, and telephone number to Catherine M. DeRoever (fax number above).

Those persons interested in presenting information at the public meeting should, by September 13, 1999, fax their name, title, firm name, address, telephone number, and an outline of their presentation to Catherine M. DeRoever (fax number above). Oral comments may be made during the open public comment period, Tuesday, September 21, 1999, between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. Time allotted to each public commentator may be limited to 3 minutes with time being assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.

There is no registration fee for this public meeting, but advance registration is suggested. Interested persons are encouraged to register early because space may be limited.

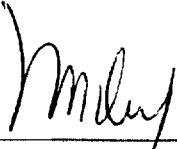
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This public meeting will provide an opportunity for an open discussion of the issues related to bare-hand contact of ready-to-eat foods in retail establishments. The committee will be asked to consider the risk of transmitting bacterial, viral, and parasitic pathogens from foodworkers, via ready-to-eat foods, to consumers, and the effectiveness of interventions.

The sponsoring agencies encourage individuals with relevant scientific data or information (i.e., epidemiology and effectiveness of interventions to prevent or minimize risks associated with bare-hand contact of ready-to-eat foods) to present such information at the meeting or in written comments to this record.

A transcript of the public meeting will be prepared. Copies of the transcript may be requested in writing from the Freedom of Information Office (HFI-35), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, rm. 12A-16, Rockville, MD 20857, approximately 15 working days after the meeting. The transcript of the public meeting and submitted comments will be available for public

examination at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

Dated: 8/6/99
August 6, 1999



Margaret M. Dotzel
Acting Associate Commissioner for Policy

[FR Doc. 99-???? Filed ??-??-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL

